

Why I Am Not A... Roman Catholic

In this new series, we will take a quick look at other Christian groups and their history. We will highlight key doctrinal differences between Baptists and them. Up first, the Roman Catholic Church.

I. History

- A. Claims to begin with Christ and Peter in Matthew 16:18-19
- B. Really was a product of Constantine's legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313
- C. Has been one of the largest persecutors of other Christian groups
- D. Today claims to have over 1.2 billion members.

II. Errors in Catholic Doctrine

A. NOTE - Quotes are from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, referenced by paragraph number. This is available online if you want to check them yourself. I've also tried to attach a Scripture reference that refutes the Catholic position.

A. The Catholic Church is the one and only true church

1. "It requires them to make known the worship of the one true religion which subsists in the Catholic and apostolic Church." - 2105
2. I Corinthians 3:21-23

B. Infallibility of the Catholic Church

1. "The supreme degree of participation in the authority of Christ is ensured by the charism of infallibility. This infallibility extends as far as does the deposit of divine Revelation; it also extends to all those elements of doctrine, including morals, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be preserved, explained, or observed." - 2035

C. Only Authority to Interpret Scripture

1. "The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him." - 100
2. II Timothy 2:15

D. Pope is Head of Church and Has Authority of Christ

1. "The Roman Pontiff and the bishops are 'authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people entrusted to them, the faith to be believed and put into practice.' The ordinary and universal Magisterium of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him teach the faithful the truth to believe, the charity to practice, the beatitude to hope for." - 2034

2. Colossians 1:18

E. Catholic Church is Necessary for Salvation

3. "Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or to remain in it." - 846

4. Romans 10:13

F. Tradition is Equal to Scripture

5. "Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence." - 82

6. Colossians 2:6-8

G. Salvation by Faith and Works

7. “so that all men may attain salvation through faith, Baptism and the observance of the Commandments” - 2068
8. Ephesians 2:8-9
- H. Divine Grace May Be Earned
9. “Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life, as well as necessary temporal goods.” - 2027
10. Ephesians 2:8-9
- I. Merits of Mary and Saints Can Be Applied to Others
11. “This treasury includes as well the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are truly immense, unfathomable, and even pristine in their value before God. In the treasury, too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints, all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ the Lord and by his grace have made their lives holy and carried out the mission in the unity of the Mystical Body.” - 1477
12. Isaiah 64:6
- J. Penance Necessary for Salvation
13. “This sacrament of Penance is necessary for salvation for those who have fallen after Baptism, just as Baptism is necessary for salvation for those who have not yet been reborn.” - 980
14. I John 1:7
- K. Purgatory
15. “The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.” - 1031
1. **crickets**
- L. Indulgences
16. “The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance. What is an indulgence? 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.' 'An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.' The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.” - 1471
17. I John 1:9
- M. False Doctrines Concerning Mary
18. “Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix.” - 969
19. I Timothy 2:5
20. “In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.” - 966
21. I Corinthians 6:14
- N. Transubstantiation
22. “Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation.” - 1376
23. We believe that the Lord's Supper *symbolizes* the body and blood of Christ, not *literally* becomes it.